

the interface 35 is used to communicate the constraint that was used by the Task Elaborator 2 to select or reject a task or task allocation.

[Para 43] FIG. 13 shows one embodiment of the format and content which are used in the Task Template 23, the Task Hierarchy 37, and as inputs to the Analysis Engine 3 or Execution Environment 7. Further, this form and content when presented in an interface such as that shown in block 36 allows the user to perform the methods of block 14.

[Para 44] A user employs standard input devices found on a computer system 38, 39, 40, 41 shown in FIG. 14 to interact with the current invention which is housed on a plurality of such systems.

What is claimed is:

[Claim 1] An apparatus comprising

- a. a task editor
- b. a task elaborator and
- c. an analysis engine.

[Claim 2] The apparatus of [c1], wherein the task editor is used to create a specification of allowable task methods, parameters, and parameter bindings, said specification suitable as input to a task elaborator.

[Claim 3] The apparatus of [c2], wherein the task elaborator is an automated planner.

[Claim 4] The apparatus of [c3], wherein the task editor obtains the initial task template from among a plurality of stored task templates.